



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

25 JUN 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(ACQUISITION, LOGISTICS AND TECHNOLOGY)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (RESEARCH,
DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(ACQUISITION)

SUBJECT: History of Defense Acquisition

Last fall, the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) initiated a project to undertake a major study of defense acquisition since World War II, leading to publication of a comprehensive multi-volume history. I wish to express my support for this undertaking.

For the foreseeable future, as we have done for more than half a century since the Department of Defense was created, we will develop and field armed forces in the face of rapidly changing technology and an uncertain and dangerous international environment. I believe that an in-depth, official history of acquisitions in DoD – an analysis of both successes and failures – can help guide us as we seek to acquire the weapon systems we need to meet the national security challenges that lie ahead.

Work on this acquisition history is off to a good start. The U.S. Army Center of Military History, acting as executive agent for OSD, has assembled a staff of highly qualified historians. Guided by an Oversight Board comprised of representatives of the Defense acquisition and history communities, the project staff has defined the scope of the five narrative volumes proposed for the study, created substantial databases of acquisition related oral histories and case studies, and produced newsletters and a Website describing the project's activities. One goal is the early development of a historical archive that will include histories and other key documents and be available via the Internet for use by the Defense Acquisition University, libraries, and faculty in classroom instruction.

OSD has funded the project's initial year and has committed \$250K per year for the remaining five years (FY 02-06), to match an equal amount pledged annually by each of the Services, to see the project through to completion. In order for us to adequately program and make these funds available to the project, please identify a point of contact within your Service to Mr.

████████████████████ The POC can work all of the funding matters, as well as keeping you abreast of progress on the project.



I appreciate not only your Service's financial support, but also the members of your staff sharing their acquisition expertise with the historians working on the project. You will, of course, be kept informed on the progress of the project and receive its output promptly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. C. Aldridge, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

E. C. Aldridge, Jr.